Supply of LPG in Assam

1699. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM
AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government propose to take to ensure smooth supply of LPG in the country particularly in Assam; and

(b) the extent of demand and the supply of gas connections in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The demand of LPG customers registered with the Public Sector Oil Marketing companies in the country including the State of Assam, has been met by and large in full.

(b) The details of new LPG connections released by the PSU oil companies in the country during the last three years is given as under:

Year	LPG Enrolment (in lakhs)
1997-98	41.4
1998-99	42.3
1999-2000	90.3

' **Transportation of Natural Gas from Iran**

1700. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM
AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the meeting of the Indo-Iranian Joint Committee held in Tehran on the feasibility of laying land pipe between Iran and India passing through Pakistan for transporting natural gas from Iran to India;

(b) whether it is a fact that Australian Oil giant BHP which conducted the pre-feasibility study of the land pipe for Iran has given favourable report; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that transportation of natural gas through land pipe would be cheaper, if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The discussions of the Indo-Iran Joint Committee on Transmission of gas are still in the preliminary stage and all aspects of the pipeline options, including political, technical